

shoulders of so many who were denied access to great public schools in the name of institutionalized segregation. Understanding this, we know that 67 years later the fight to ensure that all people are afforded access to a quality education continues throughout this Nation. Today as we reflect on the Brown v. Board of Education decision, may we be renewed by the tenacity and bravery of Autherine Lucy, Wendall Gunn, and Harold Franklin and the perseverance of Attorney Fred Gray.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to these three students and Attorney Gray for their contributions to reshaping education in Alabama and across our Nation.

CONGRATULATING THE OZARK
HIGH SCHOOL ARMY JROTC PRO-
GRAM

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ozark High School Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AJROTC), for receiving National Championships in four separate disciplines, Raider Competition, Air Rifle Three Position Competition, Armed Drill Competition, and Unarmed Drill Competition. This is the first time in the history of AJROTC that one school has accomplished such a feat.

First created in 1916, AJROTC programs have expanded to over 1,700 schools nationwide. The goal of these programs is to develop Cadets into young men and women of impeccable character. A major part of the program is the development of leadership skills. As the Cadets progress, they are given the opportunity to lead younger Cadets. The teaching of the skills molds these men and women into the leaders of tomorrow.

The AJROTC program would not succeed without the hard work of dedicated instructors. There are currently nearly 4,000 instructors nationwide. They come from a variety of backgrounds and are all retired from either active duty, reserve duty, or the National Guard. Among these dedicated individuals are 3 instructors from Ozark High School. Major Danny Cazier, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jason Allen, and 1st Sergeant William Crawford have more than 60 years of Army and Training experience. They have worked tirelessly to instill in their Cadets the values of citizenship, community and national service, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment. It is thanks to their hard work that Ozark High School AJROTC accomplished so much this year.

The Cadets of Ozark High School AJROTC are incredibly hard-working individuals. They begin their practices at 5:00 am, and they frequently sacrifice their Saturdays to the competitions. Their Drill Team also provides Ceremonial Color Guard for a variety of community events. All of this is in addition to their school work.

Madam Speaker, it is clear that our nation needs more young men and women who demonstrate a strong devotion to their community and country. The cadets of Ozark High School AJROTC live these values every day. I commend Major Cazier, Chief Warrant Officer 3

Allen, and 1st Sergeant Crawford, and all the Cadets of Ozark High School for their historic achievements this past year and wish them well in their future competitions.

HONORING JACQUE HOWELL AS
IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, in honor of Child Care Provider Appreciation Day, I would like to recognize Jacque Howell, director of Red Oak Child Development Center. Jacque has led the way in expanding childcare options in her rural community of Red Oak, Iowa.

Childcare is an especially scarce resource in Iowa. In 2018, 41 percent of our cities had children but no known childcare and 48 percent have some childcare but fewer slots than there are children. As you might imagine, this has a significant impact on our workforce and economy as many families struggle to balance parenthood and employment. In Montgomery County where Jacque and her family live, there were 1,183 children under the age of 9 but only 435 available spaces in existing licensed childcare facilities.

In 2019, Jacque attended a meeting with the Iowa Women's Foundation and was faced with many of these same statistics and was blown away by the lack of available quality care in Iowa. That's when she sprang into action and gathered others to start the Red Oak Child Development Center. Jacque was hired as director of the center in January 2020 and raised an impressive \$1.2 million in funds to bring this dream to reality.

Red Oak Child Development Center is a special organization as they partner with their local school district to make the care more accessible. They have also opted to offer infant care, a service that isn't provided by other care facilities in their community. The center is currently working on expanding its location to house two additional infant care rooms. Currently, they have 100 children enrolled in their care and they see an average of 70 to 75 of those children daily. They were baffled by how quickly they were able to fill their spots and continue to receive enrollment applications daily. Red Oak Child Development Center aims to provide quality, affordable childcare to their community. They accept childcare assistance with just over a quarter of their children receiving that support. It's clear that they are filling a significant need as some families drive up to 30 minutes one-way just to take their children to care.

Jacque says that educating the next generation of Iowan's is something that has been a lifelong passion of hers. She understands that children are truly our future and she endeavors to provide children with support, love, and encouragement. As the director of the Red Oak Child Development Center, she's been able to help build an organization that believes in quality over quantity, supports the social, emotional, and cognitive development of all children. Jacque also recognizes the importance of her amazing staff members and their ever-supportive community as they work together to continue to build what is already an incredible child development center.

Jacque's dedication to the children in her community is not only vital to the development of the children but also empowers families to reengage in their local economy as they are able to get back to work and rest easy knowing their kids are in good care. Because of that, it is my honor to recognize Jacque Howell as our Iowan of the Week.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 1447—COAST
RESEARCH ACT OF 2021 AND H.R.
2533—NEAR ACT OF 2021

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1447, the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats, or COAST, Research Act of 2021. I also rise in support of H.R. 2533, the National Estuaries and Acidification Research, or NEAR, Act of 2021.

These two bipartisan bills supporting ocean acidification research passed the House under suspension last Congress. The oceans have absorbed excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels. The resulting rise in ocean acidity levels has been shown to cause harm to marine life. Organisms like oysters, clams, and corals have difficulty building their shells and skeletons in more acidic environments. Higher acidity also alters the behavior of some fish. Ocean acidification threatens the vitality of our coastal economies. We need to get ahead of the problem of ocean acidification before it causes even greater economic harm.

Congresswoman BONAMICI's COAST Research Act reauthorizes and updates the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act. The bill supports the ocean acidification program at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA. The bill has several updates to improve the text from last Congress, with bipartisan agreement.

This year marks 10 years of ocean acidification research at NOAA. This next decade will be crucial for further understanding the impacts of ocean acidification on marine ecosystems and coastal communities. We must pass this crucial legislation to help support federal efforts to inform mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Congressman POSEY's NEAR Act would require a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. This study would examine the impact of ocean acidification and other stressors in estuarine environments.

I thank Congresswoman BONAMICI for her leadership on this issue and Congressman POSEY for his bill. I thank Ranking Member LUCAS and our staffs for working together to prepare these bills for Floor passage. Finally, I thank the numerous experts who helped inform the development of both bills.

I urge my colleagues to swiftly pass these two bipartisan bills through the House. I look forward to working with the Senate to pass strong ocean acidification legislation into law.

I also want to include in the RECORD several letters of support we have received for H.R. 1447 from outside groups.